

MMR_0054 Joe Slanser

JOE SLANSER, MMR No. 54
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After a few Christmas train sets between the ages of 8 and 14, Joe got into scale model railroading. At age 14 he built a couple of Burd reefers and a Comet box car. Someone got him a R. I. Rocket Strombecker kit which he powered with a Varney power truck.

When the Marion Model Railroad Club was formed, Joe was elected its first secretary—"that was the dirtiest job they could find for a teen-ager as we didn't have a club layout yet," Joe says. The club met at members' homes and a favorite activity was drawbar contests whose engine could pull the most? Everyone except Joe had a Varney Dockside—He tells us that those darn things could pull about 20 cars while his diesel loaded to the hilt could only pull 19. The Strombecker had been retired by then—the motor burned up so he stuck the original power truck in the other end of his F3 after replacing the 36 inch wheels with 40 inch wheels. At the next club meeting they couldn't find enough cars to stall the diesel.

While attending Ohio State University, Joe joined the Columbus HO Model Railroading Club and has been a member ever since. As he enjoys tinkering with electronics, he designed the CTC and Progressive Cab Control system which was adopted by the club. When the club had to move a few years ago, Joe designed the basic plan for the new layout. The club's Layout Planning Committee made some alterations to improve the scenic and operational qualities. Besides his membership in two clubs, Joe has his own layout which he says wasn't really planned—it just

grew. It now occupies almost the whole basement and he expects that soon it will. Joe likes to tinker with gimmicks that improve operation or reduce maintenance. The ground throws written up in the April '73 **BULLETIN** were developed by him.

Joe was having derailment problems with commercial turnouts so he has been building his own for the last ten years. The most recent ones in the yard and industrial tracks have self-guarding like the prototype. Joe says they are working very well.

Joe is interested in trackwork, electrical control, scenery, motive power and operation. He doesn't scratch build unless a kit for what he wants is not available. He has spent a lot of time kit bashing and super-detailing locomotives and cabooses to represent the prototype for which his layout is modeled—the Erie RR about 1950.

Joe has Achievement awards for Cars (he scratch built enough models to qualify for this) Scenery, Civil, Electrical, Dispatcher, Volunteer and Official. He has served as Pres. of Mid-Central Region and is currently superintendent of Div. 6 of that region.

Joe says, "To have time for all my hobby interests as well as my job I have had to forego any consideration of matrimony—at least so far."